

# SAMPAN



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## *Newton's Growing Asian Community*



## 牛頓市的亞裔社區

**THE SAMPAN**

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## STORIES

## The Way Back to Now

(Li Min Mo is a storyteller, writer and artist living in Cambridge. She will perform "Night River - The Healing Power of Memory" Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at Club Passim in Cambridge.)

When my daughter was 4 years old I decided I wanted to study theater because I wanted to learn how to speak English. I wanted to get out of my so called cocoon and overcome my inhibitions. Storytelling came right out of doing theater in the late 1970s.

In 1982 I auditioned for the Mass Cultural Council and got accepted into their roster of storytellers who would visit schools. In those days they had a very classical audition process. As usual I was ignorant, but ignorance has actually been my savior. I went there to audition and I saw ballet dancers come out of the audition room; I saw cello players come out, and I said, Oh my god, I'm not a classically trained person, what's going to happen to me? And I went into this huge dance room, and there was a row of men judges sitting at a big long table. It was like a movie. And they were all sitting looking very wooden and stiff. And I said, OK, I'm going to die today. These judges are going to kill me and that is it. I will not be able to crawl out of this room.

And I started praying for the first time, very deeply, speaking to my ancestors and calling them. And I said, Oh I don't know how to speak in Chinese; I don't know how to do that kind of language in Chinese; I said I'm going to speak to them in English because they're going to hear me. And so basically when I'm performing the story, the whole underlying subtext was my great-grandfather, my great-grandmother. I was saying: Please hold me, keep me, I am weak, don't abandon me, tell me how to move every single second, because these people are going to kill me (laughs). That's all. I put myself right there on the battle front. I'm just praying with all the might I can muster. I had never prayed my whole life. But again, innocence helped me; I was totally sincere. The result was that I saw one judge, a black man, smiling. I don't think he was supposed to do that. I broke one person out of the five or six judges there. He was smiling, he was nodding; I said, I have made god open his eyes. So I knew I didn't care whether I had passed that audition or not. Three days later they called me and said I had been accepted as a storyteller to get funded by the state. It was very big in those days.

I think it's not so much the moral in tales which I communicate through my stories. I think it's more about my enthusiasm for life, my excitement about living. That's what kids get out of seeing me. I am not afraid to express my total love, my excitement at seeing you, at seeing her, and just being here. It's just so exciting that we're alive and are being delighted by whatever activity we do. As an artist you already see things as a whole; you don't just see the parts. That's the good thing about art.

What creates that enthusiasm? Well there has been a lot of tragedy in my life. My father was dragged away by the Communists right in front of my eyes in Shanghai when I was a little child. My mother passed away after struggling with cancer for a couple of years. My daughter had spinal meningitis when she was only 1 year old and we had to rush her to the hospital. We saved her just in time. One time I was walking through the snow when a manhole cover blew three stories into the sky. Snow and salt went into a gas vent and the vent blew up just as I was walking by. Before I stepped on it I heard a voice saying: Don't step on it. So I walked around it. People thought I was dead. They heard this loud explosion. I guess what I'm really trying to say is that tragedy teaches you not to dwell on things. Move forward. And if you are always present and moving forward you can be saved. I think people suffer because they're constantly thinking about the last moment rather than now. It's very hard, but it's a Zen teaching.

When I was a kid, every time something bad happened and I was in the middle of feeling really sad and miserable something incredible would happen. For example, we had been moving around and we finally moved into this new house in Taiwan in the middle of a rice paddy. I didn't have

any friends; I didn't know the neighbors. It was very weird moving from Hong Kong, where there were many high-rise buildings, to this totally open space, to a house surrounded by rice paddies. I think it was pretty sad. But one morning I woke up at maybe 4 or 5 with the rooster crowing. I looked out my window and saw a beautiful large crane there. And just that itself was a form of awakening. I'm constantly being woken. Other people call it an epiphany. But that was just being woken by life. Just when I was totally drowning, bang, blast, I am somewhere else, yet I am here. I was constantly being brought back to here.



Li Min Mo with her sculpture in her Cambridge home. R. O'Malley photo

It definitely was very difficult for me when I was an adult to get back to that space. How did I get back to it? It was through experiencing more tragedy. I remember right after the fire (in her Cambridge home), I would just say, Oh my god, this is it. What are we going to do? We don't have any place to live. We'll probably have to go to a Salvation Army shelter. The house was all boarded up with plywood. But we decided to move back in. I remember I really didn't want to be in this box covered with plywood but we decided it would be better to be here rather than go to a strange motel. This is the place where we felt most comfortable even though it's all boarded up.

So I remember there were all these buckets along the wall because there was a big hole in the roof. And I would hear the sound of the water dropping into all these buckets. The snow was melting down and dropping into these buckets. And I remembered reading about the water clock, the ancient Chinese way of measuring time. I felt like, OK, what else can I do but measure time with each drop: bing, bing, bing. I wake up in the middle of the night and feel I'm at the end of the world and suddenly I hear in every corner of the room: bing bing, bing, bing bing, bing. I said, OK, I'm here. The bing, bing, bing is a very tragic bing bing bing, but it's telling me I'm here. That place of now. I'm constantly being yanked there with my feet kicking. It's like the way a Zen teacher will sometime hit you with a stick. I'm constantly being hit. So there were always these things to pull me out. And they were not what other people might call miraculous (laughs), but those were the moments that would save me.

My life in a lot of ways has taught me that everything could go up in smoke. All my art work was burned in the fire. My life in a lot of ways is a big long teaching that I cannot get away from. If I had a cozy life, and had a lot of angels who were helping me out all the time I probably would not have arrived at this place. I would say that wisdom does come in the most difficult manner. And also in a surprising manner. If I've gotten wiser it's because I have lived a bitter life but yet I don't want to be bitter. What's the point? That's how I got to this place. It's not by choice. It's my karma to be saved again and again, every time.

I'm a non-practicing Buddhist but my writing and my art really express my Buddhist faith. It's constantly looking for the line between sympathy and compassion. Compassion is really complete acceptance of a lot of things, and sympathy is just a matter feeling sorry for others' misfortunes. To be human we should at least have the courtesy of

feeling sympathy but compassion actually comes from work, from practice, from really understanding human suffering, the human dilemma. So I work on it, just like I work on writing. I say writing is the last lesson. I have to learn how to do it whether I like it or not. It's like beating that little wooden fish that the Buddhists beat. The fish is based on the story of Tan Seng who goes to India to get the Buddhist teachings. On his way back the teachings get swallowed by this big fish. They keep hitting the big fish's head and eventually retrieve all of the teachings except one. Now they have to beat the wooden fish head to get the last teaching. I think the metaphor is wonderful because you're probably never going to get that last teaching. It's almost like, if you did get it you wouldn't be sitting here; you'd be floating up there somewhere. I'm just sitting here beating on a wooden fish head. That's what writing is to me.

My monologue is about my being depressed for a long long time, starting from the 70s when I got pregnant and had the baby. It's about not really feeling like I had a place in the world and feeling like I couldn't get up in the morning or really do anything. Except the children make you perform your everyday chores, which sort of puts you in an almost monastic routine. You had to do those things. Reading them the same nighttime children's stories for a whole year became like a mantra. It's comforting.

Then I got into cooking professionally. I call that the alchemy of all the elements. Now you can feel comfortable. Now you're not going to get up every morning and cry. Now can you start working on the alchemy of all the elements. And you know that if you feel really bad or sad your food is going to make someone get sick. So you had to feel sort of together and respect all of the ingredients and be very patient.

And then I move on to my body. The theater training is really about my body. You can take care of other people; now you can start taking care of yourself; you can start respecting your body and learning that your body is not just you; it's the house where your soul is and the house where your ancestors are. I didn't know that until I went to every part of my body and was suddenly touched by my ancestors. It finally ends with the body. By working with the body I'm working with everything, with the past, the future, the present; that's what the body is all about.

What I learned is there's so much poetry, so much story, so much language in your body. And you're just so afraid of it but there's nothing to fear. Your body codifies everything. When I was a kid I used to love to climb trees. I had a totally fearless body which I no longer seem to think I have. The minute I bring that memory back, I have that strength again. It's not memory per se. It's that emotion; it's that strength you used to have; it's the muscles, the nerves, the reactions; it's an entire being.

When I was a child I had the fearlessness of a hunter. Fearlessness is very important for an artist and for any person. I had this fearless quality inside me but there were always those tragedies and terrible things constantly squashing that sense of fearlessness. You can become totally squashed and unable to rise up from that. Sometimes tragedy doesn't have to be the big tragedy. I happened to go through a global tragedy, but a lot of people just have their tiny town tragedies. They're all damaging for a child. They're not equal because the way people react to them is different. Some people lose 10 teeth and they're still jolly. Some people just get a scrape and they're crying for days. Some people get lucky. Nothing ever allowed me to sail through it easily.

The monologue ends with my reclaiming those stories. It's finding a way to root myself. The stories will help me root myself, whether my own stories or my uncle's stories or my grandma's stories. They'll help me know where I belong, where I am standing. It's finding that place, finding a home in that place. It's very hard. Because we are attached to a lot of little things and we can't let ourselves be free to take this journey. This journey to here, to where you're supposed to be, returning to the knowledge that this is everything, this is your past, this is your future, and you can own it.

-Interview by Robert O'Malley



## INTERVIEW

## Telling It as It Is in China

By Cecilia Wong

Journalist Hui Yin and her son Wuxhen are living together for the first time, but they had to leave China to do it.

The only reason they can live together now is that Yin, a Chinese TV journalist and writer affiliated with China Central Television (CCTV) in Beijing, has been spending the year as a Nieman Fellow at Harvard, where she is studying media policies and American journalistic practices.

Because of China's one child per family policy, Yin's 10-year-old son has never been able to stay with his mother and 12-year-old sister, Wuao. Wuxhen was recently under the care of his grandfather in China, but for most of his formative years he was passed from family to family. Yin says she paid a woman in China to look after him. Her son was able to join her in America two months ago because Yin had registered him as his sister's twin brother. In his passport, Wuxhen has the same birthday as his 12-year-old sister.

Yin's story is not an uncommon one in China. Under an autocratic Communist regime, a simple affair such as deciding how many children to have becomes the business of the state. In China, it's the government, not the citizens, that has ultimate control over many important details of daily life. Government control isn't a new issue for Yin. As a journalist she knows all too well that freedom of the press in China has often been violated - and continues to be violated - by censorship.

According to Yin, TV stations have mushroomed across China, particularly after the economic reforms of 1993, when it became possible for station operators to make money. "Advertising and commercials were unheard of 15 years ago," Yin said. "But now, commercials have become a new source of revenue for TV and radio programming. TV and radio stations no longer have to rely solely on government-funding."

Yin said most of the improvements in programming have been motivated by profits. "If there's no money, they won't change anything," said Yin, who notes that there are no privately held TV or radio stations in the country.

"How can you tell whether there are political changes taking place in China?" she asked, rhetorically.

"The day when China begins to have its first independent newspaper, an independent magazine, an independent radio station, and last, but not least, an independent TV station, then you'll know that there are real changes in China," Yin said.

Yin said the quality of TV programming has improved steadily within a relatively short period of time in China, despite the fact that it's one of the most tightly controlled sectors of national life. But certain practices in TV journalism remained unchanged. The 7 p.m. news, which is watched by almost everyone, continues to sound more like the reading of a laundry list than a Western-style news program. Moreover, she continues, news stories do not involve research, reporting, interviewing, or interpreting.

The language of much television news content is also a problem, she says. The meaning of live speeches by top leaders and officials are often difficult to understand because much of their content is obscured by "bureaucratic speak," Yin said. The most you can get out of it is a superficial sense of the speaker's "friendliness," "warmth," or "coldness," she noted.

The noon-time news format, however, has been changing over the last couple of years. The new format is based on the order of importance of the day's international and national events. Before that, she notes, events about China always took precedence over events occurring in other countries. The noon-time news segment is aired three times a day.

Prime-time evening and nightly TV programming tend to be entertainment-oriented, Yin said. For one thing, it's easier for the station to raise money from this kind of show. Also, shows on parties and social gatherings are much simpler to produce, she added.

Yin lamented the fact that so many people are watching the same show every night, even if its of poor quality. For example, she said, 10 years ago a show called "Around the World" attracted as many as 800 million viewers. "I'd think this would be a significant number for US commercial networks, but it's not unusual to have an audience

of this size in China," she added.

According to Yin, she and other producers introduced a news magazine show on CCTV in 1993 called "Oriental Horizon," which began broadcasting in the fall of 1993. It aired three times a week on CCTV's three major channels.

"Oriental Horizon" represents a major departure from the rules of complete government control and financing, Yin said. The shows were supported entirely by revenues from advertising and their finances were kept separate from CCTV's central government funding. For the first time talents from outside the official pool were hired on a contractual basis. This represented a major change from the past practice of hiring life-long employees whose allegiance was to the



Chinese Journalist Hui Yin

Communist Party of China (CPA).

When the show was finally approved, Yin, along with three other young producers, was hired to develop a program plan. As producer and writer, Yin was responsible for selecting news topics, interviewing subjects, writing scripts, and editing. Unlike the format of earlier shows, the news magazine format adopts a fresh approach to news coverage that requires research, reporting, interviewing, and interpreting. "We presented profiles and stories on ordinary people and their lives from first hand research and interviews," Yin wrote in her Nieman application. "The show opened the door for real news and investigative reporting, a totally new concept for Chinese audiences."

"Although Oriental Horizon is a major step away from pure CPA propaganda, it's still very timid as it was difficult to report on hard news or anything that might be construed as politically controversial," Yin wrote.

Because there had been little or no exposure to Western topics, thoughts, or practices on CCTV, Yin proposed a show called Global Cinema in 1994. The show would use entertainment to broadcast information on Western culture. It would feature new films from overseas, film retrospectives, discussions of film technique, and interviews with directors, movie stars, and film critics. The proposal didn't get through the CCTV censor, so Yin took her pitch to Beijing TV (BTV). As a local station with more flexibility, BTV finally agreed to produce the show.

A 90-minute magazine show, Global Cinema was aired every weekend in Beijing and broadcast by 38 affiliated TV stations around China. The show quickly became a great hit among young people in Beijing. To get around censorship, "we deliberately mixed officially approved works with banned ones," Yin wrote. "We also used discussions of the approved soundtracks as a pretext to run segments of banned films, and presented banned films as demonstrations of innovative camera angles and editing techniques."

In 1996, Yin and other producers launched their first talk show, "Tell It As It Is," a 40-minute segment focusing on hot social issues and public concerns about modern China. It was aired on CCTV national channels 1, 2, and 3, three times every Sunday. "Tell It As It Is" remains one of the most popular shows in the country today, Yin noted.

When they started the program, they had little or no idea of how they were going to do it. "This is

similar to the situation of my professional drummer friend, who when he first bought a drum he didn't know whether to hit the left or the right side first," Yin said.

One of Yin's program stories was called "Spare the Rod and Spoil the Child." In China, she said, parents often discipline their children by hitting or beating them. Since China is an authoritarian society, the relationship between parents and children is often a reflection in a much larger context of the relationship between the citizens and the government.

In her research for the show, Yin spoke to a taxi-driver whose 12-year-old daughter, a national go chess champion, was slapped across the face 12 times by his wife, who happened to be a teacher. When Yin took a camera crew to interview his wife about child-beating, a student of hers came running into her house seeking refuge from his father, who had just hit him with a baseball bat for not finishing his homework assignment. The father who had beaten his son, agreed to give Yin an interview. Both families were invited to be in the studio audience and the interviews with each family were aired during the taping of the show. Most of the live audience in the studio supported the actions by the parents. The father explained why he had to beat his child, saying, "I was beaten as a child, and that's why I've become successful. Now I'm using the same method on my son." The two children were in the studio audience, but no one in the audience could see them crying because they were in the front row. However, the television audience could.

Among the panelists was a doctor, his girlfriend, and two other women. A very successful woman on the panel described a childhood free of beatings. She talked about human dignity and respecting children's rights. There were Westerners among the audience who raised the issue of child abuse laws in the West. A lively debate on parental rights, children's rights, and human rights ensued, Yin recalled.

However, according to Yin, when the program was screened by the censors, they were told that any mention of human rights and Western laws had to be omitted. "Enough of the debate was preserved that I believe opened people's minds to the ideas of rights and the limits of power," Yin wrote. And despite censorship, the story won a "gold award," which is given monthly to the best program on CCTV.

After several screenings of "Tell It As It Is," a complaint and numerous letters commenting on various episodes ended the show. "And everyone who worked on the show was required to go to 'meetings' in which our programs were criticized for 'turning CCTV into a free forum,'" she said.

"We were told to correct our attitude," Yin said, adding that the show was reinstated at a later date, but was no longer the same. Yin said that overall there has been some improvement in programming. "It's human nature to want to do it better than before. But when you're trying to effect some changes, you encounter obstacles - your efforts are hamstrung by government censorship and control," she added.

"The government allows us to come up with new ideas for programming, but we can't do it completely the way we want it. I can't say that we don't have some good programs or shows, but content-wise, they're not as good as they once were. In other words, you can improve the quality of your work up to a certain point, but not to the extent that you'd like to see it. The media director, in particular, is very bad. He keeps everything under very tight control," she added.

There's nothing worst than "self-censorship" or "prior restraint" in journalism, Yin said. "My colleagues and I are in a constant battle over what we can or can't include in our tapes," she added. "It's not like Jiang is breathing down my neck and saying we can't do this or that. It's your immediate supervisor, and the boss of your immediate supervisor, and the boss of the boss of your immediate supervisor who does the controlling. There's a chain of command which oversees the media. And, finally, you do the dirty work yourself - you begin to censor your own work."

"But if you ignore this reality, you may find yourself having to make corrections five or six times. And if you don't want to spend all your time there, then you'll take out certain segments or sentences," she said.

(This is part one of a two-part interview. Part two will appear in the Dec. 19 issue of the SAMPAN.)



## VOICES

## A Rewarding Life in Newton

By Anping Shen

I became a resident of Newton by accident. I came to Boston University in the fall of 1988 to pursue my graduate education. Even with the school's scholarship, it was still difficult for me to make ends meet. A few weeks after my arrival in Boston I came across an ad for a live-in position at a human service program (a "group home") located in Newton. The position offered free room and board in exchange for overnight sleeping and taking care of three handicapped men on weekday mornings. I applied for the position and eventually took it without the slightest knowledge of the community I was going to be residing in.

I first learned about the "reputation" of Newton a few weeks after I moved there. I was at a Boston University professor's home to help him with some yard work. When I told him my address, he exclaimed, "Anping, we're living in Allston and you're living in Newton!" He then explained to me the "reputation" of Newton, its high-priced property, and its public school system.

I gained more appreciation of Newton's beauty when I took a Greyhound bus to New York a year later to meet my wife and son, who came to join me from China. I was shocked to witness for the first time many dilapidated urban scenes along the bus route to New York. To make matters worse, our luggage was almost robbed while I was purchasing the return bus ticket at the Port Authority station on the "infamous" - at least back then - 42nd Street in New York City. "If I had returned to China before taking that trip to New York," I have often noted, "my view of America would have been mostly based on my experience with Newton and Boston University."

Proudly called the "Garden City," Newton's landscape is abundant with beauty. But it's more than the city's natural charms that have appealed to me and my family. Newton's primary attraction for us has been its public school system. Or - educationally speaking - the city's unfailing commitment to quality education for every child.

A short while after my wife and son arrived in Newton, the Mayor's Community Liaison Office contacted us to see if we needed some help. When they learned that our 4-year-old son needed a nursery school education, a scholarship was sought for us. Because the nursery school was too far and we did not have a car then, free transportation was provided. I often joked with my son that he was treated like a member of the high-ranking official class in China whom the government provides with private cars for traveling. My son was a challenging kid because of various language, cultural, and emotional needs. However, we were happy to know that he was well-liked by the school teachers and staff. (I shared some of my son's educational experience in previous Sampan articles.)

The following year our son was again offered a scholarship - covering both the tuition and trans-

portation - to attend a multicultural pre-school program at a local public school. At the end of the school year, parents were informed of a possible funding cut for the following year and we were urged to write to the superintendent to make a case for continued support of this multicultural program, which I truly believed benefited my son's adaptation to American culture. Later I was told that my letter was read by the superintendent at the School Committee meeting. Fortunately, funding for the following year was secured.

During the following years, I learned from my community involvement and graduate programs at the Boston University School of Education that community support for a quality education for every child, particularly those who are disadvantaged, is believed to be the true spirit of American public education. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is the home of Horace Mann, the father of American public education. Newton has been a proud guardian of what educators have often referred to as Mann's "Common School Agenda."

Nevertheless, I would not say that our experience in Newton has always been smooth sailing. We purchased a house a couple of years ago in a north side Newton neighborhood - or village, as they are commonly called here. My son had a rough time when he first transferred to the neighborhood elementary school. He was physically and emotionally "bothered" inside and outside of the school by some of the "old kids on the block." While we had heard about similar incidents in the past, we, like many other Asian parents, were not quite comfortable with such emotionally charged events. We were greatly troubled at the time, and contemplated, for a while, putting our son in a private school. Fortunately, our confidence in the Newton public schools outweighed the private school approach. We worked with the classroom teachers, the school social worker, and the principal to deal with the situation. Meanwhile, I became more involved in the school's activities and was elected a parent-member of the school council. My experience on the school council and involvement in other activities turned out to be a constructive experience for me, my son, and, yes, for the school as well. At his elementary school graduation ceremony, my son was chosen by his classmates as the graduation speaker, and his speech was warmly received. It was a happy ending for my son's elementary school experience.

Fortunately, Newton has offered me many opportunities to participate in community activities. Six years ago my son started attending the Newton Chinese Language School, which has been operating on weekends at a Newton middle school. I was first involved in the school's parent council, and was later elected vice principal and principal. Currently, I am serving as

the chairman of the Newton Chinese Language School Board. Boosted by the increasing interest in Chinese language and culture in Newton and the surrounding communities, as well as support from the Newton School Department, our Chinese school has been experiencing a robust growth, with its student population more than doubling during the past few years.

In recent years, I have been expanding my role as a concerned parent, education professional, and Chinese community leader. When I learned that the budget of the Newton Free Library could be cut, I wrote a letter to the mayor to appeal for more support for the library, while expressing appreciation for the library's first major purchase of Chinese reading materials. When I was contacted by the Newton Public Schools regarding grant applications for Chinese language and cultural projects, I wrote a strong letter of support on behalf of the Newton Chinese Language School. Our Chinese community has certainly been very appreciative of the Newton Public Schools' commitment to cultural diversity and academic quality, seeing it as the hallmark of its excellence.


It has often been lamented that as a minority group, Asians in American society have significant obstacles - visible and invisible - to overcome before they can enter into mainstream society. My past years' experience has more or less attested to the reality of this challenge. However, challenges could turn into opportunities, as a popular Chinese saying goes. My professional growth and community involvement have largely been positive and rewarding for the past decade.

Early this year I was appointed by the mayor as a member of the Newton Human Rights Commission Advisory Board after applying for the position. And this past summer, I was appointed by the Newton School Committee chairperson to be a community member of the Newton School Superintendent Search Committee, also after applying to serve in that position. It is a serious responsibility of the Search Committee to help find a qualified and competent superintendent to lead Newton's first-rate educational system. I'm in the process of seeking as much community input as possible. It is time, to rephrase President Kennedy's often quoted statement, to ask not what the community can do for us, but ask what we can and should do for the community!

When I first sent my son to the Chinese school, I thought it was only for his Chinese language and cultural learning. I have got more than I had bargained for. When I went to Newton, it was out of financial consideration for my graduate education. Now I have become an actively involved Newton community resident.

I'm glad that I made the move to the City of Newton.

(Anping Shen is a regular contributor to the Sampan.)



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The Cover: Chinese-language students at Newton's Underwood Elementary School.

R. O'Malley photo

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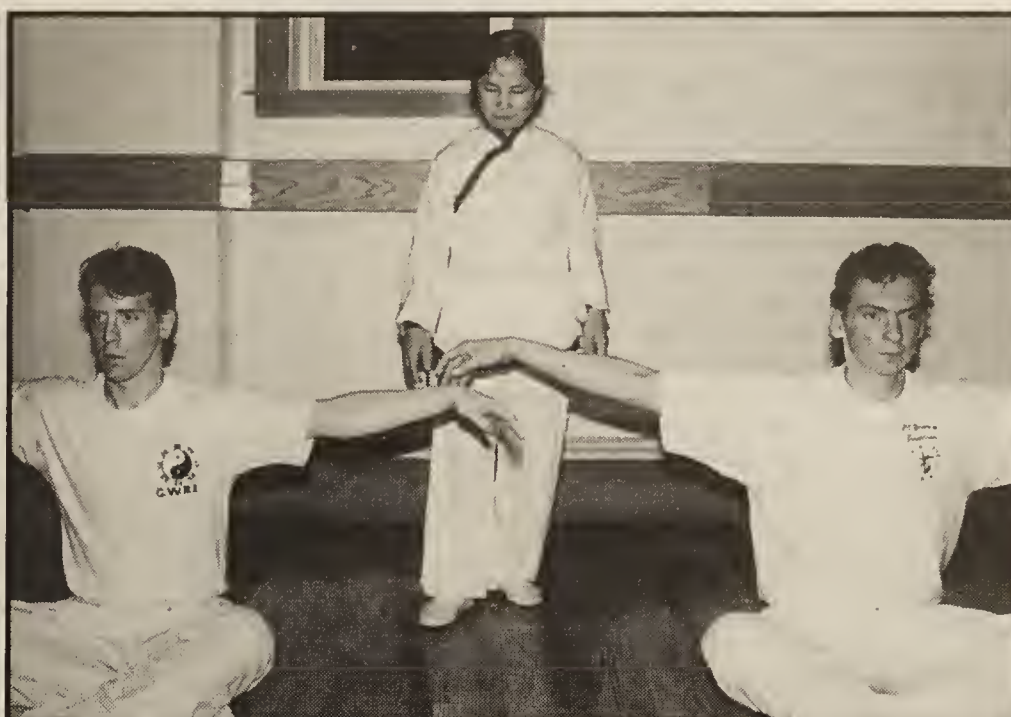
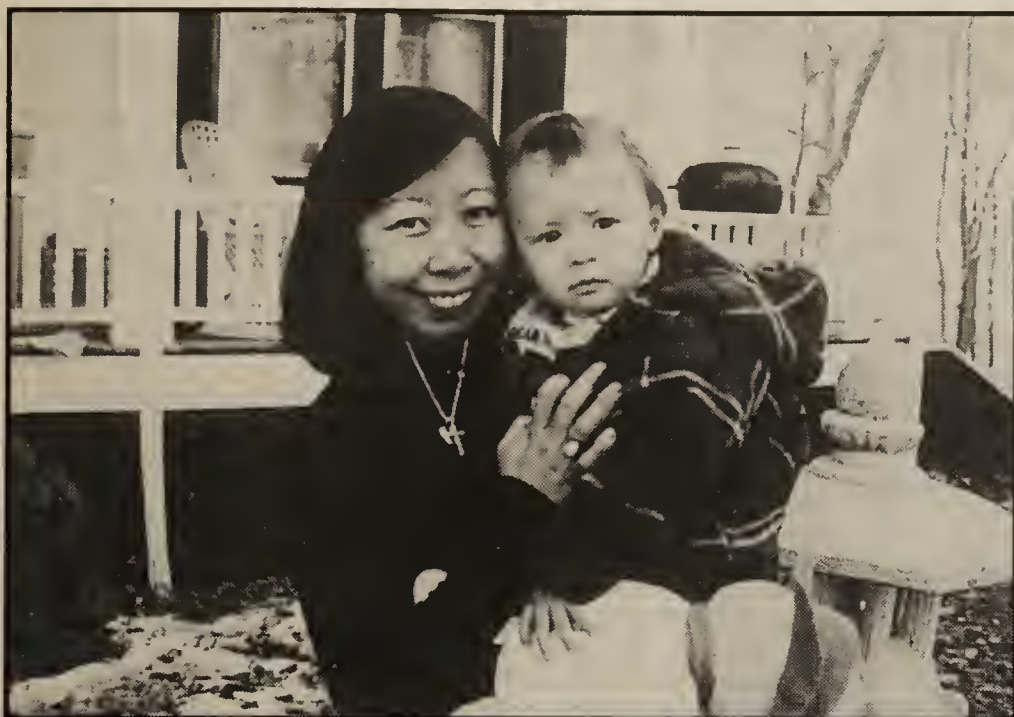
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## COVER STORY



(L) New Newton Alderman-elect Amy Mah Sangiolo with her son George in front of their Newton home. (R) Wushu master Bo Sim Mark at her center in Newton.

## Newton's Growing Asian Community

It's the day before Thanksgiving at the Underwood Elementary School in Newton. Gathered in the school gymnasium to take part in a special holiday program, the students are performing the kind of skits and songs that could likely be found in many schools across the US today. That is, with one exception. When it's time for one group of third and fourth graders to perform, they don special hats and begin to sing a Chinese song - with an almost perfect Mandarin accent, says one native speaker in the audience.

The students are participating in an innovative Newton Public School system program in which children learn Chinese starting from grade three. Initially financed with a federal grant, the elementary school Chinese language program is meant to "prepare our Newton kids to interact with whole world," says program manager and head teacher Jie Gao.

"This is a global world," adds Gao, who explains that the school system plans to add a fifth grade Chinese class next year and that eventually students interested in studying Chinese language should be able to take Chinese courses from grade three through high school. The Newton Schools currently have some Chinese language programs for high school and middle school students.

The development of the elementary-level Chinese program isn't the first time that the Newton educational system has thought globally. For more than 15 years the school system has had a student and teacher exchange program with Jie Shan Middle School in Beijing, considered one of the city's best secondary schools. Each year four or five students from China attend school in Newton while their Newton counterparts attend school in China.

While it's hasn't been Newton's Chinese language programs specifically that have drawn an increasing number of Chinese to move to the city in recent years, many Chinese says its the reputation of the city's schools and the overall multicultural perspective of the city that have led them to purchase homes in this Boston suburb.

Although the Newton Asian population in the 1990 US census was only about 4,000, some people estimate that it has been growing annually by about 1000 during the 1990s. Like the Asian population in suburban communities such as Quincy and Malden, Newton's Asian population reflects the growth in Asian immigration over the last 15 to 20 years. But while Malden's and Quincy's Asians are generally Southeast Asians and Cantonese from mainland China, Newton's Asians tend to have more diverse backgrounds. The Newton Chinese population has traditionally included many Taiwanese, but it also has Chinese with Cantonese backgrounds and an increasing number of immigrants from mainland China who speak Mandarin.

Although many Chinese find Newton's school system, housing, and neighborhoods attractive, the high price of real estate in the city tends to limit the Chinese population there to professional families with relatively high incomes. Newton has become a bedroom community for professional Chinese who work in Boston or in the high-tech industry along Route 128. While Yen says a significant number of Newton Asians are professionals, she notes there are also restaurant owners and others with non-professional jobs.

In addition to being attracted to the city's high-quality school system, many Chinese are also attracted to the city's reputation for tolerance. "Newton seems to have a reputation for multiculturalism," says Jane Yen, the current president of the Greater Boston Cultural Association (GBCCA) in Newton.

Yen adds that the city also has significant Russian, Japanese, and Korean populations. "This community seems to have less discrimination to new immigrants," says Yen.

And while some residents have at times experienced subtle forms of discrimination, overall the local Chinese interviewed by the Sampan say they feel comfortable living in Newton. "I haven't heard my friends complain they have been discriminated against by anyone," says Yen.

Like many residents of Newton, Jennifer Hu said she was drawn to the city because of the reputation of its public school system. A volunteer in the high schools and the mother of two children who have attended Newton schools, Hu observes first hand the city's growing Asian population. "The number has been growing a lot," she says. "In the beginning, if I went to the school I didn't see so many Asian kids."

Hu, who, along with her husband, came here as a student from Taiwan, says the Newton Asian population consists largely of first-generation Chinese and their children. Like others, she says the city's Asian population is a diverse one. She learned about its diversity first hand when she tried to organize an Asian community group in the past. She says she often found it difficult to get people involved in the organization. And those who did express interest often had different backgrounds and sometimes had difficulty communicating with each other. There were people from Taiwan, Hong Kong, and mainland China, and their backgrounds often influenced their thinking and attitudes, she says.

In some instances, she adds, "we have more problems to connect with each other than with other groups" because of the different backgrounds.

"In general I think it's a wonderful city," says Hu, who believes Chinese are drawn to Newton because of its proximity to Boston and the welcoming attitude of the city's government. And while there have been instances of racial discrimination in the past, "the incident are very few," she says. She recalls hearing people complain about the police taking sides in an accident and a local Stop & Shop where Asians complained about receiving rude treatment. "We complained about that," she says.

And while Hu says her son was harassed on the school bus about 10 years ago, she believes less of this occurs now because people become more used to Asians as the population grows. "Now I don't see many problems with my kids," says Hu, whose son attends the high school.

Living in a city in which the Asian population is still relatively small, Hu and others say they get along well with their non-Asian neighbors, though some people are more willing to cross racial lines to develop friendships than others. "I probably have more American friends than Asian friends," says Hu, who adds that many Asians "probably still associate with Asian friends."

Hu believes it's important to get involved in city activities and attend local meetings to present the Asian community's point of view on issues. "If we didn't attend the meeting no one would say anything for us," she says of one instance in which Asians complained about an incident of discrimination in the past. "I wish more Asians would write letters to the editor." She says she sees few Asian parents at local PTA meetings.

Hu, who recently worked on Amy Mah Sangiolo's campaign for alderman-at-large, believes that many Asians in the community haven't a "chance to communicate with the real American world. So they don't have this idea of trying to understand what is happening" in the city, she says. In trying to get people interested in voting in the recent election, she says many local Asians would often tell her that they weren't political. For first generation Asians, time is often dedicated to jobs and families rather than local community activities, she says.

The growth of Newton's Asian population was almost certainly a factor in Amy Mah Sangiolo's victory over Roderick MacLeish in the Nov. 4 election for alderman-at-large in Newton. Sangiolo squeaked to victory in a photo-finish race by a mere 12 votes. In fact, it took some time to determine who actually won the race. Sangiolo was initially told she had won the race, but a short while later, with her supporters celebrating at her home, she was told that MacLeish had won by 52 votes. Although she was initially reluctant to request a recount, she decided to do so at the urging of her supporters. With both sides observing, Sangiolo came out on top in the recount by a mere 12 votes.

Although Sangiolo says she's unsure how significant a role Asian voters played in her victory, she feels certain that reaching out to them helped her cause. And with her victory decided by a handful of votes, it's safe to say that any Asians she inspired to get out and vote on Nov. 4 were crucial to her victory. In the weeks before the election, Sangiolo made an effort to tap the Asian vote by phoning Asian residents to ask for their support and urging them to register. She also contacted the GBCCA in Newton, where she presented her views on issues before the election.

Sangiolo suggests that her visibility as an alderman may encourage more Asians to get involved in Newton's political life. As things stand now, "there isn't really a network," says Sangiolo, who believes that the Newton Asian community needs to develop more networks and take advantage of the GBCCA and the local Chinese-language radio station to become a more effective political force in the city.

Her victory, she suggests, "shows that Asians can get politically active and involved. Hopefully it will serve as an example to get more Asians involved in local government," she adds.

"Think what a difference you can make with several votes," adds GBCCA's Yen. "I think it's a good lesson to other people." Yen says Sangiolo's victory also showed how important it is for Asians to begin registering and voting in larger numbers. "We want to encourage [residents] to go and register to vote," she says, adding that several GBCCA members become actively involved in Sangiolo's campaign, which emphasized development, envi-

continued on page 6



## COVER STORY

continued from page 5

ronmental, and education issues.

While some residents suggest that a major obstacle to Newton's Asian population becoming a political force in local politics is its lack of organization, the GBCCA in recent years has been taking on an increasingly high-profile role in Newton, often serving as a go-between on issues involving local institutions and the Asian community.

Most recently the Newton-Wellesley Hospital has been collaborating with the organization to provide a workshop to teach Chinese elderly how to avoid losing their balance and falling. GBCCA also recently received a grant from the Foundation of Racial, Ethnic, and Religious Harmony to provide programs to introduce Newton School children to various aspects of Chinese culture.

Founded by a group of Chinese in 1956 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Dorchester, the organization was located in Weston before purchasing its current headquarters at 437 Cherry Street in West Newton in 1993.

The organization's goals are to promote public awareness of Chinese culture and heritage; enhance the well-being, civil rights and the image of Chinese Americans; and provide a multicultural, bilingual environment for young people. The GBCCA currently runs a Chinese School on Sundays and has numerous after-school and evening educational programs on arts and culture for both youths and adults. It has also been playing a prominent role in Boston's First Night celebration and other local festivals and events.

Founded by Dr. Robert Yuen and others, the organization was in part created to counteract the subtle forms of discrimination some Chinese felt at a time when the Chinese population was much smaller than it is today, says Yen. A goal was to



GBCCA President Jane Yen in front of the organization headquarters in Newton.

reduce misunderstandings between Chinese and non-Chinese that could lead to discrimination by letting more people know about Chinese culture, she says.

For many Asian residents of Newton GBCCA offers a sense of community that might otherwise be lacking. "Through the GBCCA there's a very strong sense of community," says Jane Hwang, who works for BankBoston.

And while Hwang says she gets along well with her largely non-Asian neighbors, she says she is also "very involved with the Chinese community of West Newton."

Living in a largely non-Asian city has not been difficult for most Asians. "I think in general people are quite used to living around Asians," adds Hwang, who is originally from Taiwan and has two children attending Newton South High.

While one of her children was called names in school - a problem reported by other parents at various times - Hwang believes the problem was manageable. "Overall I wouldn't complain that it's an uncomfortable environment," she says. "I think there's a pretty decent percentage of Asian students."

In addition to the city's large immigrant population, Newton also has a growing number of American-born Chinese in their late 20s and 30s, she says.

Hwang notes that the city strives to quickly deal with instances of discrimination. "Newton tends to me more vocal" when it comes to human rights concerns, she says.

The city also tries to provide services that would be of interest to Chinese residents. The city, for example, invites Chinese performing arts groups to take part in local events and the Newton Public Library now has Chinese-language books and videos, she says.

A member of the Newton Human Rights Commission, Hwang says several incidents of discrimination against blacks have been brought to the attention of the committee as well as an incident at the Chestnut Hill Mall in which an Asian woman shopping with a non-Asian friend was accused of shoplifting and was treated harshly.

Overall, though, Asians generally see Newton as a welcoming environment. "I think in general I have very good things to say about Newton," says Hwang.

-Robert O'Malley

## See the Taste of Asia in Boston Feature in the December 19 Sampan



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The helpline is open to callers Mon- Fri 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

#### Other Helplines at the Attorney General's Office

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#### Consumer Complaint & Information Services

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Provides consumer information, referrals to state and federal agencies, details on the Office's mediation process, and small claims process information.

#### Fair Labor & Business Practices Division

(617) 727-3465

Provides relevant information on wage enforcement and labor standards.

### CALENDAR

Mayor Thomas Menino's 1997 Christmas Trolley Tour and Tree Lighting: Dec. 7, 1997, 1:15-2:30 P.M., Phillips Square, Chinatown. Come join Santa Claus, his reindeer, snowmen, gingerbread men and a host of other holiday characters as they sing, dance, and spread holiday cheer. Light snacks and refreshments will be served at the event, which will also include Asian performances.

A Concert For Peace: Dec. 8, John Hancock Hall, 180 Berkeley Sy., Boston. A Concert in memory of the victims of World War II. Sponsored by the Greater Boston Chinese Cultural Association. For info. call 332-0377.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



We are a charitable Community Health Center based in Boston's Chinatown with a staff of 150 who provide over 25 programs and 70,000 patient visit/year.

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Job description available on request.



## CITY

# Machine Defeats Incumbents in Vote

It wasn't a good day for incumbents in the Nov. 30 annual Chinatown Neighborhood Council election.

Incumbents Wilson Lee, Paul Lee, and Mary Chin were defeated by newcomers who had the support of Frank and Billy Chin behind them.

The turnout was high in this year's election, with a record 3099 people casting votes at the Fleet Bank in Chinatown. Voters chose seven candidates to fill the seven Council positions which are up for re-election annually.

As in past elections, questions were raised about some of the tactics used by the winning slate to get its candidates elected, as well as voting procedures at the bank.

Edwin Chu received 1653 votes and Anne

Marie Booth received 1368 votes to win the two available seats in the "organization" category. Defeated was incumbent Paul Lee, of the Chinese Economic Development Council, who received 1322 votes.

Hung Goon won the one available "agency" seat by defeating incumbent Mary Chin 1667 to 1278.

In the "business category," Wilson Lee, outgoing president of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, was defeated by Cathy Chan 1747 to 1232. Chan is associated with Jumbo Seafood Restaurant in Chinatown.

And in the "other" category, former Council member Jason Chung defeated Mei Tung Market owner Richard Kong by a 1620 to 1384 margin.

Incumbent Father Hugh O'Regan received 763

votes and incumbent Mary Soo Hoo received 994 to win the two seats available in the "resident" category. The two ran unopposed in the election.

As in past elections, candidates ran on opposing slates. Sharing one slate - called the Dream Team - were Mary Chin, Paul Lee, Anne Marie Booth, Wilson Lee, and Richard Kong. The only candidate on that slate to win was Booth. On the other slate - which had the support of the Chin brothers - were Edwin Chu, Hung Goon, Cathy Chan, and Jason Chung. Every member of that slate was elected.

Observers said the Chin brothers used their connections to restaurant workers and others in the community to get votes for the slate they were supporting.

## Assistant Director Housing and Transportation

Wellesley College is currently seeking a full-time Assistant Director in the Housing and Transportation department. The Assistant Director is responsible for the housing of 2150 students in 22 residence halls. Organize and direct the rooming lottery and maintain the Banner Student Services functions that document student rooming. Work with residence staff and other student service departments to alleviate and solve rooming issues and conflicts. Counsel, advise and educate students, parents and staff on rooming policy, procedures, housing options and room changes. Maintain inventory and control of student room keys. Organize and manage student Summer Housing. Assist and support Director with the management of Faculty Housing and Transportation Services.

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Wellesley College especially welcomes applications from ethnic minorities.



**Wellesley College**

YouthBuild USA is the national training & support center for a network of dynamic programs that teach disenfranchised young people to build affordable housing & to build a future for themselves. We are seeking creative professionals for the following: **Program Auditor:** Responsible for conducting audits for full membership of the Affiliated Network. Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience. Experience in non-profit/CBO assessments & evaluations. Administrative Assistant: Work for Vice President who supervises a staff of 30. Should have strong organizational & interpersonal skills. Should be highly skilled in word, excel, access, writing & editing. 3-5 years experience supporting a senior manager with complex responsibilities. **Administrative Assistant:** provide administrative support for 2 senior staff. Strong organizational, computer, writing & verbal skills required. Sense of humor, experience in fundraising & finance environment a plus. **RESUMES: T.H. Jackson, Personnel Manager, YouthBuild USA, 58 Day Street, POBox 440322, Somerville, MA 02124. AA/EEO. Please no phone calls.**

## Sampan

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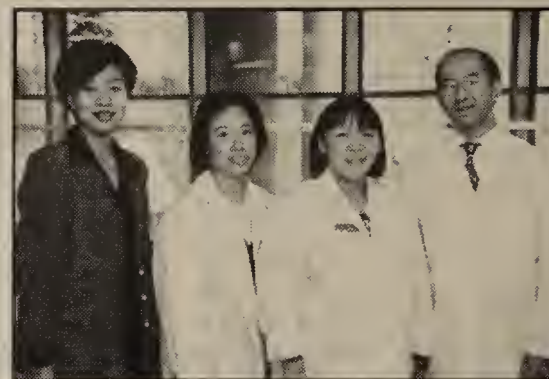
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New England Medical Center

## 老年保健四注意

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### (一) 食勿過飽

老年人更要注意保護脾胃，必須做到：一日三餐巧安排。定時定量；粗細糧並用，不飢不食，未飽即止。每餐不宜過飽，吃八分飽即可，對蔬菜水果葷食應當是：可口物取適量，逆口物取所需。節制飲食，避免病從口入。多吃植物、粗纖維、潤腸之品，避免老年習慣性便秘。

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### (三) 思想不勞

思想健康、樂觀積極、主動學習、樂於助人、保持朝氣、不知老之將至。這說明老年人必須有豐富多彩的精神生活，才能保持生活充實、精神愉快、

### (四) 堅持用腦

隨著年齡的增高，腦細胞會有一部分退化。堅持合理地、科學地用腦，可以改善局部血液循環，增進細胞活力，延緩大腦的萎縮，若大腦受的訓練越少，衰老也就越快。相反，若積極用腦，那麼，腦細胞的衰老過程會減慢。人體器官均有「用則進、廢則退」之特點。這也就是俗話所說的「身

身體健康。人到老年不妨研究研究書法、繪畫、詩歌，講究一下著裝……，有利於調節精神，又給人一種挺神氣的感覺。老年人更應追求美，才越活越健康。

不怕動，腦不怕用」的道理，因此人也應「活到老，學到老」，不要以為年高再學新知識太遲，這不僅對增長技藝有利，也對健康防衰有益。

## 舢舨

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## 聖誕節慶祝 與文化活動

節日季節已經臨近，慶祝活動接踵而來。十二月七日星期日下午一時十五分至二時三十分，在華埠舉行點亮聖誕樹的活動，地點在夏里臣街與士嘉堡路口的菲利浦廣場。曼寧諾市長將參加此典禮，還有聖誕老人的彩車及雪人、薑餅形象，並有歌舞表演與茶點招待。

波士頓公園 (Boston Common)



的聖誕樹亮燈儀式也在十二月七日舉行，時間是下午四時至六時，此活動迄今已是第五十六年，今年的活動亦有歌舞表演和節日彩車。

聖誕節期間是上演傳統節日劇目《胡桃鉗》(The Nutcracker)的季節，波士頓芭蕾舞團仍以強大陣容在王安中心上演這出經典芭蕾舞，時間是十一月二十八日至明年一月四日，將有四百餘兒童參加演出，劇中小女主角克拉克的弟弟的扮演者之一是家住布萊頓的華裔男孩陳衛中。

## 《為和平而歌》音樂會 哀悼南京大屠殺六十周年

今年十二月十三日是日本軍國主義在第二次世界大戰中犯下的罪行「南京大屠殺」六十週年，「珍珠港事件」則過了第五十五個年頭，而在南京無辜受害的三十萬中華骨肉同胞的亡靈仍在召喚後人：歷史不容歪曲，忘記歷史就沒有未來。身在海外的人同胞應該牢記六十年前的民族冤屈，不要因為向日本丟過原子彈就饒恕了軍國主義的罪行。為了讓中美人士共同緬懷南京大屠殺六十週年，深切哀悼被害的三十萬同胞，邀請大家來參加《為和平而歌》音樂會 (A Concert For Peace)，時間是十二月八日星期一晚七時半，地點在波士頓漢考克音樂廳 (John Hancock Hall)。

有來自中國大陸的「愛樂男聲合唱團」，由北京的中央樂團、中央歌劇院、中央音樂學院、總政歌舞團等近十個音樂團體院中幾十名高水平歌唱演員組成；來自台灣的一郵聲合唱團，由台北地區愛好歌唱之郵政同仁組成；以及大波士頓地區的文協合唱團、黃河藝術團等，還有旅居本地的女高音歌唱家鄧桂萍、男高音歌唱家段小毅等。音樂會中演出的《金陵祭》是著名作曲家金湘特為此次音樂會譜寫作詞並親自指揮。金湘自幼學習音樂，一九五九年畢業於北京中央音樂學院音樂系，但文革期間慘遭迫害，下放新疆二十餘年，但他仍堅持音樂創作，其作品風格多樣，有大聲歌劇、交響樂、協奏曲、大合唱及各種室內樂及影視音樂，其歌劇《原野》、《楚霸王》等極獲成功，他還出版過音樂評論著作。金湘在九十年代在美國幾家音樂學院訪問、工作、進修，目前他是中國音樂學院作曲教授。

《為和平而歌》波士頓音樂會的主辦單位是大波士頓中華文化協會歷史回顧小組 ARCH (Action to Revisit Chinese History) 和亞洲廣播電台，除音樂會外，還籌辦將在麻省理工學院舉行歷史圖片展覽及討論會，籌備小組今年夏天曾舉行募捐活動。此次聽說全美「紀念南京大屠殺受難同胞聯合會」要在紐約舉行《為和平而歌》音樂會，歷史回顧小組特地與有關人士聯絡，懇請來波士頓演出一場，雖然籌備時間倉促，但仍邀本地文藝團體共同參加，在各團體的大力支持下，將一台具有特別意義的音樂會獻給廣大觀眾。

《為和平而歌》十二月八日的演出場地 John Hancock Hall 位於波士頓 180 Berkeley St.，停車場在一街之隔的 Clarendon St.。票價有 \$10 與 \$20，詢問電話：(617) 332-0377 - (508) 877-7761。

## 節日免費停車

為方便駕車人節日期間進城購物，波士頓市區的停車計時表在十一月二十九日至十二月二十七日期間實行星期六兩小時免費停車，這是波士頓曼寧諾市長、市交通局及泊車檢查辦公室給市民的節日禮物，有關部門將張貼二百五十張紅綠節日泊車標誌，通知駕車者可享用周六免費泊車計時表兩小時的待遇。此外，十一月二十八日(星期五)和十二月二十四日(星期三)也實行兩小時免費停車。

劇以往的演出極受歡迎，因而第四度重返波士頓。

《西貢小姐》(Miss Saigon) 是另一受歡迎的百老匯舞台劇，亦將於一九九八年一月十四日至二月二十八日重返波士頓在王安中心上演。

十二月二十六至二十九日，富利中心將上演迪斯尼冰上舞劇《阿拉丁》(Aladdin)。

迪斯尼的另一個著名動畫片《美女和野獸》(Beauty & The Beast) 則改編成了百老匯舞台劇，來波士頓演出的時間是明年七月，但預售票已開始發售。上述演出購票都可電 1-800-921-2787。

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# 華盛頓街改進計劃

## ——一項振興本市商業區的新方案

十一月二十日星期四下午，華盛頓街改進委員會在華埠龍鳳酒樓召開會議，邀請華埠社區領袖及各界代表、新聞媒體參加，波士頓市長曼寧諾也出席做開場白，介紹了華盛頓街改進計劃和波士頓市商業改進區方案，希望華埠民眾能夠認識、支持和加入對本市經濟發展極為有利的改進計劃。然後華盛頓街改進委員會主席羅伯特·溫伯具體介紹了商業改進區的由來以及本市的準備步驟，也表示了歡迎華埠加入總體計劃但又為華埠保留選擇餘地的態度。

### 何謂商業改進區

商業改進區(Business Improvement District, 簡稱 BID)是一項已在全美國許多城市實施的商業鄰區自助改進計劃，目的在於改善區域內的衛生、外觀、治安、環境等因素，以吸引更多顧客遊人來本區域購物消費，從而達到促進區內商業進一步發展的目的。該計劃的對象是大城市內零售商業集中的繁華街區，與亦在全美國實行、本市華埠也已參與的「主街計劃」有相似的目的，卻有不同的運作方式。其不同點在於：

主街計劃雖也以改善街區外觀為主要目標，包括街道衛生與治安的改善，但更著重街道建築物門面的修繕改觀，而且政府會為需改善門面的商戶業主提供一定數額的建築資金，因此主街區域的選擇需經政府的審批，而且一般複蓋面積較小，只包括一個獨立社區。例如波士頓的華埠就是全市十餘個主街社區之一。

商業改進區的宗旨則完全是由區內商戶業主自己籌資來改善環境，以眾人的資金和力量將一片商業區聯合成一個整體，有利於全區域的商業發展和行業間的相互交融。地方政府雖不像主街計劃那樣為商業改進區撥款，但會給予極大的支持與方便，為區內繁榮創造條件。商業改進區的面積可以很大，複蓋面可達一二百個街區，內中行業也非常多元化。

### 成功的例子

波士頓的華盛頓街改進計劃是本市第一個商業改進區，一九九六年九月二十四日，曼寧諾市長召開了第一次會議並成立了華盛頓街改進計劃委員會，二十八人委員會成員由改進區內商業、機構、大學的代表以及市政府官員組成，一年多來，該委員會已進行了廣泛的工作，尋求改進區內房產主、商戶、機構的意見，以制定合乎本地特點的發展計劃，而且還派員參觀了美國其他城市商業改進區的成功例子。

溫伯主席在會上還以幻燈片與錄像片配合介紹了波士頓的商業改進區特點，以及其他城市的榜樣。他介紹說：「迄今全美已有上千個商業改進區的成功例子，最著名的商業改進區是紐約的時代廣場，這個地處百老匯商業劇院區聞名世界的繁華街市，在數年前卻因街道狹窄治安不良使遊客們望而生畏。商業改進區計劃使時代廣場今非昔比，由區內業主們共同出資組建的衛生清理和治安保衛兩支專業隊伍，使這個區域已變成真正的繁榮和平整潔的旅遊商業重地。」他並說：「看到現在的波士頓市中心商業區，就像見到五年前的紐約時代廣場，相信華盛頓街改進計劃也能使波士頓的這個心臟地區變得象如今的時代廣場一樣。」

溫伯還表示：雖然紐約時代廣場是個非常典型的例子，但考慮到波士頓的城市規模與巴爾的摩及費城相近，他們便重點考察了這兩個城市的市中心商業改進區，獲得極大的啟發。現在波士頓市中心沿華盛頓街的商業改進區已經在組建之中，範圍起自市政府中心廣場附近直到劇院區，這個區域包括了許多大型零售商店(如 Filene's, Macy's)、大酒店(如瑞士酒店)、大學(艾默森學院、薩克大學)、醫院、銀行、大劇院、餐廳等，是波士頓商業娛樂最集中也最繁華的地區。這個區的大部分商戶、機構、產業擁有人已積極參與了改進區計劃，樂意出資共襄振興本區盛舉。然而，目前劃分的改進區卻與毗鄰的華埠擦肩而過，這是因為尚未爭得華埠社區同意是否願加入此計劃，這也是委員會來華埠開說明會的目的。

### 華埠應否加入商改區

商業改進區計劃是完全以區內成員自願參與自付資金為基礎的，但卻要求以整個地理範圍的街區共有百分之五十一以上產業價值的百分之六十以上的產業擁有者同意參與，該區才能被接受為商業改進區。同意參與的商戶、業主或機構要按房產面積出資，每年投資標準是佔地面積每平方英尺六十六分(66¢)，樓上面積每平方英尺四分(4¢)。有關部門的計算及其他城市的經驗表明，這種出資標準對業主商戶來說都不是很大負擔，而從改進區獲得的長遠利益回收卻大得多，因此得到廣大民眾的支持參與。

目前波士頓市中心商業區的許多大商戶、企業、機構等已經積極響應，按上述標準，華盛頓街改進區每年可以有超過三百萬元的經費來改善環境，這將是一筆可觀的費用，可以聘用專業化的保安人員和清潔人員來維持秩序清理環境，還可對街道外觀進行一些美化建設。如果華埠被留在改進區之外得不到上述服務，在外觀上會與該區形成鮮明對比，對華埠本身的形象不利，也會使為鄰的商業改進區受到影響。因此曼寧諾市長及華盛頓街改進委員會是希望華埠能與市中心區聯合行動，但鑑於華埠的特殊情況，更需要尊重華埠社區自己的選擇。

溫伯主席指出，華埠可以有幾種不同的選擇，其一是參加華盛頓街的大改進區，其二是成立華埠自己獨立的小改進區，其三是不參加商業改進區計劃。他表示如果華埠願意參與此計劃，可選前兩種方案，其條件與出資標準都是一樣的，不同的是前一種是資金、服務與委員會都統一管理，而第二種方法則可由華埠獨立運籌。改進區首期合約為五年，其後還可根據需要繼續延續二十年。

在說明會上，一些華埠社區人士表示：加入改進區所需交納的錢款似乎並不是大問題，但能否讓華埠所有的人都支持加入此計劃卻需作不少工作，有些華人存在佔便宜的心理，或許會指望其他百分之六十業主商戶出資，而自己當另外百分之四十不出錢光得利者，這種自私和貪圖小利的行為在以往清理垃圾等計劃中就曾出現過。因此，我們首要的任務是教育華埠全體人士了解商業改進區計劃的益處，並從長遠考慮主動參加進來，而不要讓老番們笑話我們華人佔小便宜。

華埠的另一特點是長期以來自我運作與封閉的傳統，有些人士也關心如果華埠社區出了錢加入大改進區，是否這些錢會完全服務於華埠本身，而不是效勞給了其他地區，也擔心華埠人士在大改進區委員會佔席位有限權力不夠，因此是否成立自己的小改進區更為合算。

波士頓市重建局亞裔計劃員甄碧鳳亦是華盛頓街改進委員會成員，她表示：華埠社區有些特殊考慮是可以理解的，但與周圍地區共同合作卻給予華埠一個好機會，加強與美國主流社會及相鄰的大商戶企業的聯絡，也會給華埠帶來更多的政商機會與經濟利益，因此市政府是希望華埠能加入華盛頓街改進大區域的。波士頓市亞裔聯絡員曾雪

清也表示：華埠商戶不能光看到自己出了錢，要想到市中心商業區的那些大商戶出了更多的錢，因此整個改進大區每年的運作費可達數百萬，便能建立更強的專業隊伍來服務整個區域，而光靠華埠自己的力量是不可能集得這麼多經費的。其他城市商改區的經驗也證明，改進區較大成效則越好。

波士頓市主街計劃主任凱茜在說明會上指出：商業改進區與主街計劃並不矛盾而是相輔相成，可以互相支持促進。華埠主街經理蔡寶瑩則表示首先要多宣傳讓華埠商戶、業主們了解商業改進區計劃的本質，然後由大家共做決定參加與否。

另外，華盛頓街設計統籌委員會將來華埠召開說明會，介紹從市中心到達得利廣場的華盛頓街改建設計方案，時間是十二月九日晚六時至八時，地點在華埠社區中心(即昆士小學內)的大禮堂，懇請社區民眾參加並提建議。華埠業主及商戶愈了解華盛頓街商業改進區計劃詳情或索取中英文資料，可洽波士頓重建局甄碧鳳，電話：(617) 722-4300分機4292。(朱偉儀)

出版預告

下期《舢舨》將於十二月十九日出版，需翻譯字體的廣告及社區活動欄消息請於十二月十二日前交本報處理，多謝合作。

又本刊歡迎各界投稿、來信、及提供有關亞裔社區的消息。

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# 社區議會改選揭曉

【本報訊】南灣／華埠社區議會年度改選於十一月三十日(星期日)得出結果，統計，投票總人數達三千零九十九票的空前之多，在四個類別十一名候選人中選出七人，選舉結果及各人票數如下：

**機務類：**阮鴻燦(一六六七票)，陳美霞(一七七八票)，前一一人當選；

**團體類：**崔永良(一六五三票)，浦安麗(一三六八票)，李洪文(一三二二票)，前一一人當選；

**商戶類：**陳鳳儀(一七四七票)，李衛新(一三三三票)，前一一人當選；

**其他類：**鍾志生(一六二零票)，鄭佩康(一三八四票)，前一一人當選；

**居民類：**司徒麗英(九九四票)，奧理根神父(七六三票)，二人皆當選。

南灣／華埠社區議會是波士頓華埠商戶機構居民的代表性領袖組織，州市政府及有關部門凡涉及華埠利益的大事務都需經社區議會討論通過，該議會五個類別的議員任期有二年或三年之分，因此每年都有數位議員輪流任期屆滿，需要重選新人，議員亦可競選連任。作為近二十年來成立的新型社區機構，社區議會的選舉方式更符合美國的公開民主選舉制，而與許多華埠社團只在內部投票不同。



圖為紐英崙醫院用作急救的天臺直升機台啟用日，社區代表及醫院人士共同合影。

**紐醫直升機 為病人帶來新生**

設在紐英崙醫院中心的天台式直升機台於七月二十二日獲准使用。在啟用後之數小時內便接獲首宗經此地運抵該院的初生兒，他因氣喘和其生命展開搏鬥，而籍著波士頓醫療救護機及時送到專科醫治，使他的生命得以挽救。

據統計過往夏季七、八月份運載到急症室之二十八架次飛行中，有二十一架次抵達時間是在上午八時至下午八時之間，通常到了秋冬季，直升機出勤次數就會減少。

八月二十一日之清晨，一名嬰兒由一架海岸防衛隊直升機從瑪莎葡萄園(Martha's Vineyard)醫院轉送到本院，經過奮力搶救，嬰兒已無恙。

這些病人得以保存生命，全賴紐英崙醫院中心設有直接而又快捷之直升機通道，病者才可迅速得到特殊的護理服務。華埠社區允許紐醫設置及操作天台式直升機台，拯救了過去數月經此而來的病人們之生命。

**中華公所選舉狀況百出**

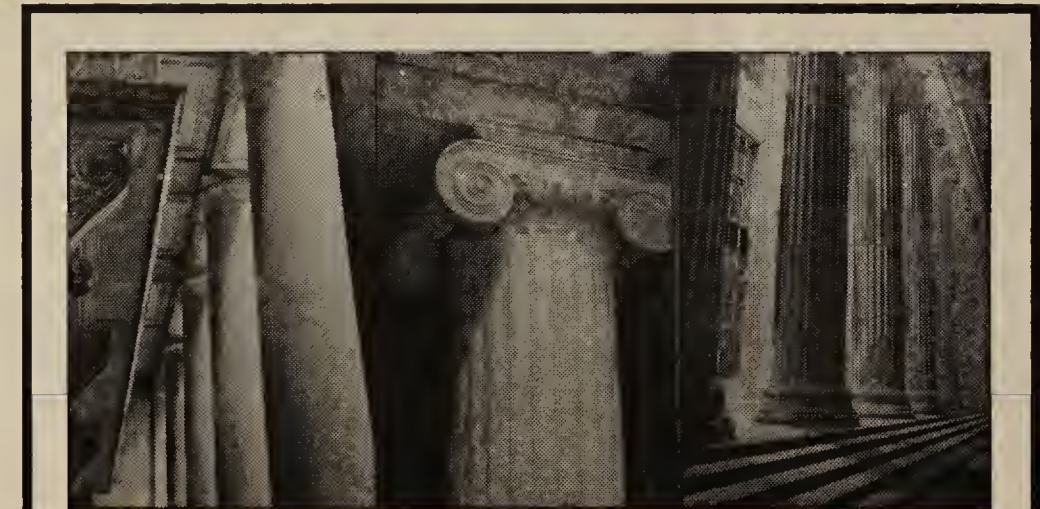
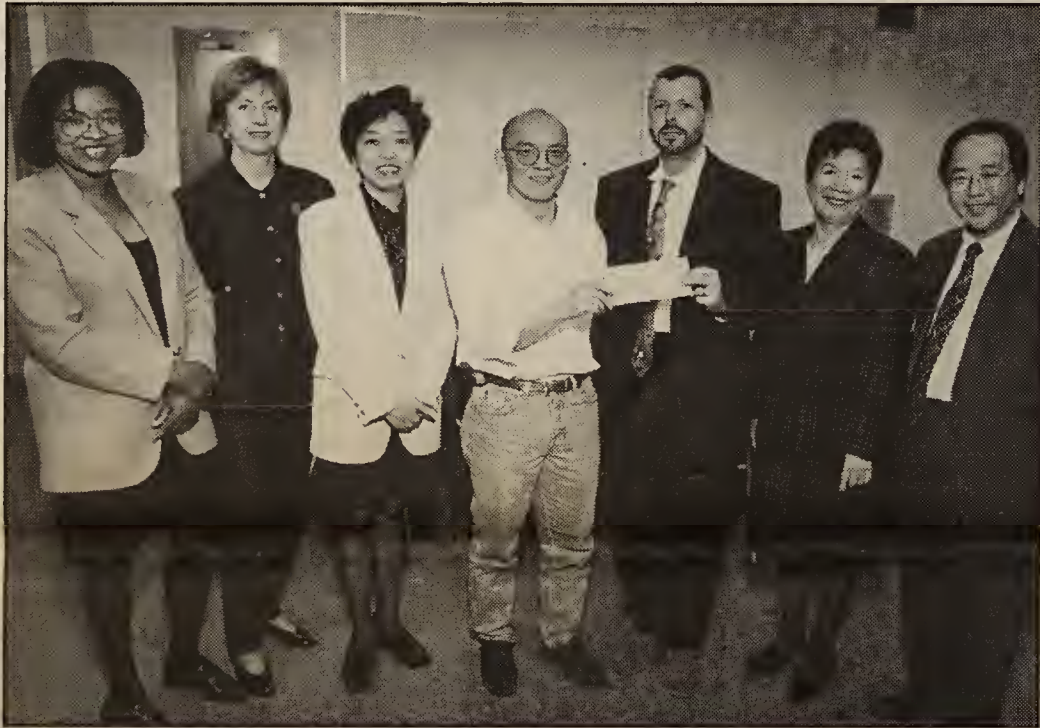
紐英崙中華公所改選原定在十二月二日進行，就在選舉的前一日，就選新任主席的三名候選人之一的周錫然突然宣布退出競爭，理由是不願在社區內教父教母對其任加歪曲，從而使參選主席者只剩梁天光、梅錫銳二人。在十二月二日晚於中華公所進行的選舉中，更出奇聞，有六十名合格議員參加投票，卻收得了六十一張選票，這多出一張非法選票使當晚的選舉結果全部作廢，改期至兩周後再重選。

## 華埠新聞

### 亞裔健康聯盟 再獲紐醫贊助

由五個華埠服務機構組成的「亞裔健康聯盟」今年再度獲得紐英崙醫院贊助，繼續在亞裔社區推廣「B型肝炎及肺結核」疾病教育推廣活動。紐英崙醫院並要求第二年的工作除了介紹這兩項高度傳染性疾病之外，尚要增強亞裔對及早做各項體檢重要性的認知。譬如一般四十歲以上易出現的毛病如高血壓、膽固醇增高、各項婦科疾病、糖尿病等，都能在醫生每年體檢時及早發現得到治療。

圖為「亞裔健康聯盟」代表接受紐英崙醫院十萬元支票頒贈時攝。華美福利會主任李秋明(右一)、中華耆英會主任梅伍銀寬(右二)、昆士社區學校委員會主任梅大偉(中)。紐醫代表分別為(左至右)：白蘭德、藍波特、楊學明及史畢懷克醫生。



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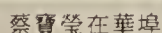
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記華埠主街經理蔡寶瑩

包括建築景觀、商店門面與招牌、照明燈光、街道清潔、鄰區美化及治安等）來提早鄰區形象，以吸引更多消費者、旅遊者前來，進一步促進當地的商業與經濟發展，而生意興旺又會促進業主們再投資改善外觀與環境，從而形成一個良性循環。參與主街計劃的地區需經過市政府審批，要符合商業、旅遊、零售業及居民的比例條件，並且是在近期發展階段有一定阻力與困難的地區。因為市政府將為主街地區打算改進的商戶撥發一定款項，所以要找最需要的地區。波士頓的華埠是首批入選的主街地區之一。

一九九七年五月新接手主街計劃經理職務的蔡寶瑩是個頗有朝氣的年輕人，她沒有思想束縛與舊傳統意識，敢於迎著困難作鬥爭，帶給華埠主街一片清新。華埠主街是市政府與華埠聯絡的一條紐帶，以往華埠許多類似機構都是由在此地工作多年人緣頗熱的社區人士擔任。大學剛畢業的蔡寶瑩則是一張全新的面孔，問到她對此是否感到工作中有阻力與困難，她表示：「我雖然並沒有在華埠居住過，但從小就跟父母常來這裏吃飯、購物、訪友，對華埠的大街小巷已頗為熟悉，也常參加華埠的活動，如中秋、新年慶祝及許多社團的



程，尤其是來到美國這樣一個文化背景與社會就不是一日之功，再去接受美國社會層出不窮的新計劃、新方案就更得先觀望一番。因此，接受新觀念很快的美國人對亞裔的做法不太理解，像主街計劃以及即將開展的商業區改進計劃等，政府及有關部門負責人對如何在華埠推行開展確有為難之處，也才需要既懂得亞裔文化又了解主流社會的人士從中做工作。而蔡寶瑩認為：「我們作為亞裔既然了解社區特點，就要耐心做工作，也希望大家多支持，因為主街計劃實在是幫助大家更好地做生意，是為大家的利益著想。」

來美國後一直在波士頓南岸昆士市住了十幾年的蔡寶瑩對當地印象很好，她說當年她在昆士市上學時會是在學校中唯一的亞裔學生，而這些年眼見當地亞裔日益增多，但無論是亞裔少的

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方面要多做市場宣傳，另一方面也要進行實際的面貌改善。如果華埠總是髒亂陳舊的老樣子，是不可能吸引更多的遊客的。而這正是華埠主街要做的工作。主街計劃有四個分委員會對華埠整體外觀進行統籌規劃，也希望各個商家能按照標準來改建，相聯的樓宇應有整體外觀，以免給人不協調的感覺。業主和商戶們只需自己投資一半門面和外部改建費，而另一半則由主街匹配基金撥款。迄今華埠已有十余家申請改建，泰勒街二十五至二十七號的樓面改建計劃已獲主街批准。

蔡寶登感到，由於文化傳統的關

了。只有二十二歲的蔡寶瑩小姐也希望將來能有機會再去大學進一步深造，但她覺得在年輕精力充沛之時獲得社會實踐和工作經驗也很重要，在華埠主街經理的崗位上，她已學到了許多學校里學不到的知識。

之處，主街辦公室並計劃在華埠設置三處專用告示欄，並得到聖能建築公司的贊助，目前夏里臣街六十五號門前的告示欄已安裝完畢，需張貼通告者可與主街辦公室聯絡將傳單貼在其內。另外兩處告示欄不久將設在華埠牌樓及大同村附近。

另外，華埠主街正在準備出版一份中英雙語的《主街簡訊》，主要介紹華埠的生意特點，例如每一期分別介紹華埠的餐館、禮品店、超級市場、診所藥鋪等，並將發行到本市的各大酒店等公共場所，以便人們了解華埠，來這裡消費。

作為華埠主街經理，蔡寶瑩認為

政府和美國社團共同開展的活動。受父親影響，蔡寶瑩也參加協助過昆士地區的許多社區活動，至今還在做義工。而且，利用她目前任職華埠，從而對波士頓及昆士兩大亞裔眾多的市區都有了解，的便利條件，開展一些聯合性的工作。例如，畢業於北昆市高中的蔡寶瑩一直想為母校多做些事，經她參與聯絡，將為包括波士頓、昆市、龍都、摩頓、麥得福等市鎮的十五所高中建立起聯合的亞裔學生俱樂部，這大概在本地歷史上還是第一次，她還協助亞裔高中生聯合會出版簡訊，並希望該俱樂部與主街計劃互相宣傳。

因為自己是位年輕人，蔡寶瑩仍

人物專訪

談到主街計劃的具體工作，蔡寶登小姐說她上任之後，除開辦了亞洲美食活動外，還著力清潔華埠街道，尤其是清除了在街道牆壁燈柱上隨便張貼的告示傳單，在華埠主街董事會和幾名責成人士幫助下，除去那些告示並通知貼告示者以後不要再亂貼。而且爲了聲保區都沒有感到有被歧視現象，昆士的治安也很不錯，因此雖然她家也曾搬遷，卻一直沒有離開昆士市。她的父親蔡熙在昆士警察局亞裔聯絡部工作，也是位熱心積極的社區活動家，參與發起和組織了南岸地區亞裔社區的許多重大活動，例如已有多年歷史的昆士中國人

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為通過一份來  
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的投等徑  
女的老途  
范個、同隊  
范為退休財  
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劃是免保  
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華人來說，文協已成為他們的一個「家」，定期來此學藝、交友、聽講，就如同華埠的華人每週要去飲茶一樣。

與華埠許多傳統社團及一些已職業化的社區服務機構不同的是，雖然註冊有非盈利機構的稱號，並有了自己的房產，文協卻一直堅持輪流管理的會員聯誼體制，目前除聘有一位半職薪秘書之外，正副主席、委員、幹事等所有工作人員都是義務服務，而且每年改選輪流執政。儘管這種體制不可能為社區民眾提供某些專業性服務，卻也使文協避免了許多人事與經濟糾紛，這正是文協引以為傲之處。許多文協的老會員對此頗有感觸，住在牛頓的王青雲曾說：華人社團中爭權奪利、獨斷專行、或內哄分裂的現象常有發生，而文協可以說是一個少見的團結和諧、沒有人能獨斷專行的組織，因此才能越辦越有活力，受到越來越多的人的擁護。

鄭增華指出：本地的亞裔社區組織名目繁多，有的代表商戶、有的代表專業人員或留學生、有的代表來自某一地區的人士（如同鄉會）等，但只有文協的成員有著最廣泛多元的代表性，因此從某種意義上講才是最能代表大波士頓地區廣大華裔的一個團體。

較為松散的結構體制並不妨礙文協在牛頓及周圍地區的影響作用，牛頓市政府及有關部門凡有需要與亞裔社區的聯絡都會找文協協助，文協已成為西郊公認的華裔代表性組織之一。連波士頓市一年一度的新年第一夜大遊行也請文協出面組織華人遊行隊伍。文協還吸引了遠近地區慕名而來中美人士，設在文協大樓內的華僑文教中心第二圖書館每逢週末開放時總是讀者眾多，今年上半年因台灣僑委會要關閉這個圖書館，引起了不少人的反彈，不僅華人們需要這個圖書館汲取精神食糧，連當地的中小學以及附近大學學中文的美國師生們都常來這裡尋找中文資料。僑二圖書館的開而復閉，也反映出牛頓一帶的華人社區已形成了一股不可忽視的力量。

去年起，牛頓市獲得了聯邦資助的「學習外國語」基金，在公立小學中逐漸推廣外國語教學，從中國取經回來的教育局負責人便指定中文作為這項計劃中教授的外國語言，這在全麻州恐怕也是首創。牛頓市小學「學習外國語」計劃開發經理兼教師高潔介紹說：這項計劃不同於中英雙語計劃，雙語計劃是幫助母語非英語的學生過渡掌握英語，而這項「學習外國語」計劃正相反，是教講英語的所有學生學習一門外語，我們這裡是教中文。高潔在中國曾任中學英語教師，在波士頓大學教育專業畢業後，先後在牛頓公立學校任教助理和初高中的中文教師。一九九六年牛頓開始了小學中文計劃後，她受聘擔任項目開發工作，先從中英雙語計劃的安德伍德小學的三年級開始，對全體學生進行每週二次的中文教學，今年該校三、四年級都參與了學中文，同時又在另一小學的三年級開始中文課。明年，中文教學將擴展到第三小學。市里的計劃是在經費許可條件下，逐年將中文教學擴大到全市所有小學的三、四、五年級，以便和中學的中文教學接軌。

在十一月二十六日安德伍德小學的感恩節聯歡會上，該校三、四年級學生用中文演唱了歌曲，表演了節目。高潔指出：牛頓教育局的遠見與開放確實值得敬佩，他們認識到亞太地區特別是中國在二十一世紀的重要作用，又了解到中國教育方法的長處，感到培養孩子們從小學習中文了解中華文化是十分重要的，因此在中小學中文教學方面走在其他地區的前面。美國家長們對孩子學中文的反映也非常積極，說孩子回家還嘴裡不停地念中文唱中文歌，他們很感謝學校能把握東方語言文化帶給美國學童。高潔說：「除了教中文聽說和簡單讀寫外，我們還與各科老師配合傳授中華文化，例如音樂老師伴奏教唱中文歌曲，與美術老師共同教中國藝術，還與體育老師合作，讓孩子們練中國學校普及的廣播體操和視力保健操，學生們對這些都非常有興趣。」她相信這些教育活動必定會促進下一代對華人和對中國的友好態度，也有利於進一步提高牛頓公立學校的教學質量。

最近牛頓公立學校由於原校長離任，需組成委員會尋找聘任新校長，正在麻州教育局任職、本人又有個兒子在牛頓公立學校讀書的沈安平成為校監尋找委員會中唯一的少數族裔成員。他認為牛頓市政府和教育部門以往對亞裔的重視支持不光表現在重視亞洲語教育、關心亞裔學生及社區事件，也表現在對本地區的中學學校等華人社團的幫助上。曾任牛頓中文學校校長的沈安平指出：大波士頓地區大約有近二十家中學，絕大多數是租房辦學，而校舍問題也常是最令中文學校頭痛的麻煩之一，由於年幼的學生們難免為房東添些混亂，好多家中文學校都會被迫一再搬遷或是增收房租造成經濟困難等難題，而牛頓中文學校已借用牛頓一所初中(DAY MIDDLE SCHOOL)許多年，尚未因校舍而陷困境，該學校與教育局的理智支持使廣大華人師生家長很感動。他希望新的校監能重視公立學校的中文教育和支持當地中文學校的工作。

熊晶表示：牛頓市是一個各種族較為團結和諧的社區，治安環境也很不錯，但並不是說亞裔或其他少數族裔受歧視的現象就已杜絕。近幾年就會發生過兩名華裔在牛頓栗子山購物中心被保安人員無端懷疑偷盜商品的事件，值得大家深思的是為何偏偏是亞裔遭懷疑檢查。我們亞裔在捍衛自身權力的同時，還要更進一步聯合起來，對全社會產生更大影響。可以說，美國所有地方都產生了亞裔人口都在增長，使地方政府、美國社會和亞裔社區都要好好地思考一下，應該如何相互理解、互助互利，這需要大家都多奉獻、多寬容，了解對方文化，發揮自己的特長，糾正本身的弱點，整個社會才能進步。

牛頓市應保持重視教育的優良傳統，在數年前學生人數減少時，市里曾關閉合併了幾家學校，有的校舍已改建成公寓住宅。而近幾年遷入牛頓的有學齡兒童的家庭大增，學生人數也增長很多，現有學校已有人滿為患的趨勢，長此下去教育質量難以保證，是否應重新開放被關閉的學校以緩解目前的學校壓力，是需要我們與全市人們共同努力的。她認為亞裔家長也不能光重視自己子女的學習成績，而要多關心參與全市、全社會的大事。

曾牛頓公立學校系統工作並作為家長為學校當了多年義務輔導員的牛秀珍指出：對她地學校內的優點與問題有較多的了解，她感到不少亞裔家長以為孩子進了牛頓的學校就可以高枕無憂了，其實許多青少年的毛病正出在家長與學校的掉以輕心上。在牛頓讀書的華人孩子中發生心理障礙的不止一例，甚至有華裔高中生自殺事件。她認為學校系統在學生尤其是亞裔的心理輔導方面還有疏漏，倒不如一些學生問題明顯的市鎮在這方面花較多功夫。其實，牛頓的學校中也存在許多問題，例如據統計中學生毒酒率已佔百分之八十五，而許多華人家長只注意孩子的學習成績，卻不關心這些問題，與子女及學校也缺少交流。她認為這類社會現象其實在每一個市鎮都是存在的，但有些住在較好區鎮的家長反而放鬆警惕，或者對此一無所知，或者以家丑不可外揚的心理為自家和住區隱瞞缺點，這反而不利於子女教育和社區建設。

牛秀珍指出：在牛頓市政府及公務系統工作的亞裔們也受到壓低薪水等歧視對待，但問題是這裡的亞裔們為自身權力作鬥爭的精神不夠。牛頓的亞裔居民以文化教育水準程度較高的專業人士為多，不少人士自以為與美國社會交流沒什麼困難，覺得用不著社區的幫助，這或許是為何至今牛頓沒有草根性亞裔社區組織出現的原因。她感到不少華人們與中文教師高潔

牛頓安德伍德小學的學生們與中文教師高潔

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### 重視教育吸引亞裔社區

牛頓的公立教育體系是吸引亞裔的一個重要因素，雖然一些華人家長在真正送孩子進了牛頓公立中小學後也感到並不如期望的那麼滿意，這是因為中美教育觀念差異所致，但不可否認牛頓市教育確實開放並樂於接受多元化。

十幾年前，牛頓市公立高中就與中國北京景山學校開展了校際師生交流計劃，每年互派幾名教師和高中生去對方學校教學，這恐怕是中美之間最早開展的高中生互訪交流計劃之一。牛頓景山交流計劃雖然曾有中斷，但數

年前恢復至今合作順利。在恢復此計劃時由於沒有了政府資助，需要自籌資金，牛頓市長與公校校監曾徵求當地華裔社區意見如何籌款。在牛頓開辦了林苑餐廳的劉南建說：這項中美學生交流計劃收益者是牛頓的所有學生、家長和整個學校系統，因此籌款不能只依靠華人社區，而應有全社會參與。他不僅出主意讓牛頓的商家們做銷售捐款（如在每週某一時間內的銷售額中有一定百分比捐出），還帶頭參與捐款。在重視教育傳統的牛頓市，這種方式果然得到許多商家及家長、學生們的支持，指定捐款時間去該店消費，不僅籌得了教育交流資金，也促進了不少商家的生意。由此得益的中美交流計劃也不斷發展。近兩年，牛頓市教育局還派出代表團訪問中國，景山學校及其他學校的教育成果為他們留下深刻的印象，凡參觀過中國的校監、校長和教師們，回來之後都雄心勃勃地要按「中國模式」改造本地的學校教育，或許不久牛頓就會推行更受中國家長們青睞的教育方法。

去年起，牛頓市獲得了聯邦資助的「學習外國語」基金，在公立小學中逐漸推廣外國語教學，從中國取經回來的教育局負責人便指定中文作為這項計劃中教授的外國語言，這在全麻州恐怕也是首創。牛頓市小學「學習外國語」計劃開發經理兼教師高潔介紹說：這項計劃不同於中英雙語計劃，雙語計劃是幫助母語非英語的學生過渡掌握英語，而這項「學習外國語」計劃正相反，是教講英語的所有學生學習一門外語，我們這裡是教中文。高潔在中國曾任中學英語教師，在波士頓大學教育專業畢業後，先後在牛頓公立學校任教助理和初高中的中文教師。一九九六年牛頓開始了小學中文計劃後，她受聘擔任項目開發工作，先從中英雙語計劃的安德伍德小學的三年級開始，對全體學生進行每週二次的中文教學，今年該校三、四年級都參與了學中文，同時又在另一小學的三年級開始中文課。明年，中文教學將擴展到第三小學。市里的計劃是在經費許可條件下，逐年將中文教學擴大到全市所有小學的三、四、五年級，以便和中學的中文教學接軌。

在十一月二十六日安德伍德小學的感恩節聯歡會上，該校三、四年級學生用中文演唱了歌曲，表演了節目。高潔指出：牛頓教育局的遠見與開放確實值得敬佩，他們認識到亞太地區特別是中國在二十一世紀的重要作用，又了解到中國教育方法的長處，感到培養孩子們從小學習中文了解中華文化是十分重要的，因此在中小學中文教學方面走在其他地區的前面。美國家長們對孩子學中文的反映也非常積極，說孩子回家還嘴裡不停地念中文唱中文歌，他們很感謝學校能把握東方語言文化帶給美國學童。高潔說：「除了教中文聽說和簡單讀寫外，我們還與各科老師配合傳授中華文化，例如音樂老師伴奏教唱中文歌曲，與美術老師共同教中國藝術，還與體育老師合作，讓孩子們練中國學校普及的廣播體操和視力保健操，學生們對這些都非常有興趣。」她相信這些教育活動必定會促進下一代對華人和對中國的友好態度，也有利於進一步提高牛頓公立學校的教學質量。

最近牛頓公立學校由於原校長離任，需組成委員會尋找聘任新校長，正在麻州教育局任職、本人又有個兒子在牛頓公立學校讀書的沈安平成為校監尋找委員會中唯一的少數族裔成員。他認為牛頓市政府和教育部門以往對亞裔的重視支持不光表現在重視亞洲語教育、關心亞裔學生及社區事件，也表現在對本地區的中學學校等華人社團的幫助上。曾任牛頓中文學校校長的沈安平指出：大波士頓地區大約有近二十家中學，絕大多數是租房辦學，而校舍問題也常是最令中文學校頭痛的麻煩之一，由於年幼的學生們難免為房東添些混亂，好多家中文學校都會被迫一再搬遷或是增收房租造成經濟困難等難題，而牛頓中文學校已借用牛頓一所初中(DAY MIDDLE SCHOOL)許多年，尚未因校舍而陷困境，該學校與教育局的理智支持使廣大華人師生家長很感動。他希望新的校監能重視公立學校的中文教育和支持當地中文學校的工作。

熊晶表示：牛頓市是一個各種族較為團結和諧的社區，治安環境也很不錯，但並不是說亞裔或其他少數族裔受歧視的現象就已杜絕。近幾年就會發生過兩名華裔在牛頓栗子山購物中心被保安人員無端懷疑偷盜商品的事件，值得大家深思的是為何偏偏是亞裔遭懷疑檢查。我們亞裔在捍衛自身權力的同時，還要更進一步聯合起來，對全社會產生更大影響。可以說，美國所有地方都產生了亞裔人口都在增長，使地方政府、美國社會和亞裔社區都要好好地思考一下，應該如何相互理解、互助互利，這需要大家都多奉獻、多寬容，了解對方文化，發揮自己的特長，糾正本身的弱點，整個社會才能進步。

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### 昆士中文學校建校籌款

昆士中文學校建校籌款

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### 舢舨每月專刊

「亞洲美食」--

一九九七年十二月十九日。

「中國新年特刊」--

一九九八年一月十六日。



# 牛頓市的亞裔社區

朱偉憶

封面故事

## 競選險勝的亞裔女性

牛頓市(NEWTON)是波士頓西部的一個以富裕、安靜、教育系統優越而聞名的良好居住區。在今年十一月初剛結束的該市政府機構的選舉中，有一位亞裔女性馬惠美(Amy Mah Sangiolio)當選為牛頓市議員。她是該市歷史上第一位參加競選並當選的亞裔，而且是一位女性，何況她只以十二票領先對手當選的競選過程中，還有著曲折的故事。

在位於牛頓西部查里斯河畔的住宅中，三十三歲的年輕母親馬惠美抱著一歲半大的幼子，競選獲勝並未使她顯得欣喜若狂，面帶疲倦的馬惠美說：

「說實在的，競選的幾個月，對我來說真如噩夢，不管是輸是贏，我只是盼望這一切盡快過去，可以多一些時間照顧我的寶貴。」然而，她並不否認競選取勝的意義，這不是她個人的勝利，而將對整個亞裔社區、年輕一代及所有的民衆都有所啟示。

馬惠美的父親是出生於美國的華裔，祖父母是來自中國廣東的移民，而她的母親則是生於日本的日裔。她本人曾在華盛頓特區任律師，兩年前因丈夫在麻州找到新職業而舉家遷來，她的丈夫生長在本地，仍有許多親屬住在牛頓和鄰近地區，因此他們便在牛頓落了戶，如今他們夫婦、幼子及馬惠美的父母一起住在購得的兩家庭屋中，屋後兩英畝樹林山坡一直傾斜到查里斯河邊，遠處則可以望見麻州收費公路上川流不息的車流。

馬惠美表示：由於麻州的律師執照需要另行考試，而她剛剛生了兒子亦想多照顧家庭，因此來到此地後尚未重獲舊業，更沒想到會踏上政途。促使她參選的正是她家屋後查里斯河畔的一項開放工程。一家開發公司準備將一座舊庫房改建為寫字樓和大型停車場，雖然這項工程並不直接影響她的產業，但她仍被鄰居帶領參加了鄰區對該工程的反對活動，憑她以往任律師和參與若干環境保護項目的經驗，她和丈夫訴諸法庭後得到開發公司十萬元賠償。馬惠美認為鼓勵她採取行動的是全體社區民衆對該工程異口同聲的反對態度，雖然他們夫婦出面打官司，但勝利應屬於整個鄰區，因此她堅持要求開發商貢獻三十萬元作為一項信託基金來支持環保計劃和社區關心的項目。開發商也同意再捐獻二十萬元給以

SANGIOLIO夫婦命名的信託基金，這筆錢將用於查里斯河水質清潔及其他社區計劃。

反對開發項目的成功，使馬惠美在當地美國民衆心目中樹立起很高威望，許多人鼓勵她參加今年的市政府改選競爭。馬惠美也感到要真正獲得社會的重視，必須要在政治體制中有自己的代表，尤其牛頓地區亞裔人口已達到相當數量，卻從來沒有人參與政治競選，因此勇敢地站出來參選，也使在牛頓居住時間並不長長的馬惠美有機會接近本地的亞裔社區。

在十一月初選舉之後，最初的消息是，馬惠美僅以五十多票之差輸給了對手，雖然她已獲得了九千多選票的支持。協助她競選的華裔牛秀珍談當時的感想說：「聽到她以微弱之差未能當選，我們許多人都哭了，本地的許多美國人都選她，但可惜的是我們的很多亞裔卻沒有去投票。儘管我們也做了宣傳，但我自己的熟人朋友都有不少沒去參加選舉。」對政治不甚關心，似乎是亞裔一貫的傳統，可以想象，如果牛頓選區合格的亞裔選民都去投馬惠美一票，她不至於以微弱之差而失利。

雖然仍有亞洲傳統觀念的馬惠美感到不管輸贏自己已盡力而為，希望放鬆一下多照顧幾個月來幾乎無心顧及的小兒子，但她的支持者們(大多數是美國人)卻堅持鼓勵她要求重新核算選票。經過兩周多的選票重數，結果峰迴路轉：馬惠美以九千六百四十票僅超出對手十二票，她終於獲得了勝利。

位於牛頓的大波士頓中華文化協會(GRCCA)現任主席熊品說：「認識馬惠美是今年夏天她開始競選活動時，雖然作為一個非盈利的民間組織，文協並不能支持某一個人的政治競選活動，但我們覺得她作為牛頓地區第一個參選的亞裔女性，將會為我們的社區和年輕一代樹立楷模。而鼓勵華人關心政治、投身社會活動、融入主流社會也正是我們文協的宗旨，因此我們曾請了馬惠美及其競選委員會人員來文協開說明會，希望通過此事激發更多華裔的參政熱情。她競選中的曲折經歷，也更應引起我們社區的進一步反思。」

國的政治體制中，能夠參加政治競選者不一定有錢有勢，也不一定社會關係深厚，只要你真心幫助社區，就能獲得一定的支持。她也表示通過競選過程，使她這個來此地時間不長的人與本地亞裔社區加強了聯繫，這是難得的收穫，也希望將來能為亞裔多做些事。

## 牛頓亞裔社區的增長歷史

馬惠美競選市議員的事例也表明亞裔在牛頓地區的影響逐漸擴大，這與當地亞裔人口的增加分不開。據統計，在牛頓市八萬五千人口中，亞裔有約一萬人，近三、四年間，就有約一千個亞裔家庭遷入牛頓市，目前講中文的人口在牛頓是僅次於英文的第二大語言群體。為適合少數族裔人口的發展，牛頓市的有關部門也開展了相應的服務，例如牛頓市的公立圖書館兩年前獲得了一筆資金開設外國語言圖書部，便將此款分別購買了大量中文和俄文的書籍及影像制品，以滿足華裔與俄裔這兩個在當地增長最快的社區民衆的文化需要；該圖書館近幾年還舉辦了數位亞裔藝術家的美展及多次有關亞裔文化的講座與活動。而牛頓市的公立小學則從去年起逐漸推廣中文作為第二外語的課程。具有重視文化教育及接受多元文化傳統的牛頓市一直是吸引亞裔的市鎮之一。

實際上，直至十幾年前牛頓還曾是大波士頓郊區亞裔最多的一個市鎮，這就是為什麼四十年前，大波士頓中華文化協會(GRCCA)能在牛頓誕生的。一九五九年，這裏還創立了大波士頓郊區第一所中文學校，牛頓中文學校。當年搬到牛頓的許多是生長在波士頓華埠的第二、三代華裔，後來多了不少來自台灣、香港、大陸的新移民。牛頓與星加坡曾是兩區兩大亞裔聚居地。曾在牛頓住過多年的熊品指出：「與靠近一二八公路的星加坡多半居住來自台灣的專業人士的特點不同，牛頓的華人成份更加多元化，老移民的後代們多是台山人、廣東人，因而牛頓也有所規模不小的粵語中文學校；後來台灣香港留學生、專業人士逐漸增多，也有不少生意業者選擇牛頓居住，近幾年來，大陸人搬來的更多。從文協會員的成份也可看出這種多元趨勢。」而牛頓的亞裔社區，除了華裔之外，也有相當數量的日裔、韓裔、越裔等，在牛頓胡街有座很大的韓裔教堂，禮拜日總是人來人往。亞裔開的商業，如餐廳、修車行、醫生診所等也處處可見，太極大師麥寶輝師傅位於牛頓的中國武術館以及日式、韓式的柔道、台拳道館等都很受歡迎。

為這裏的房價比城區便宜許多，誰也沒有想到近二十幾年來，牛頓的房價會大漲。在牛頓居住了近二十年，卻一直住在華埠工作的甄云龍表示，十幾年前曾在華埠購得幾幢投資房產，現在看來在城區投資房產並不是很好的選擇，如果當年在牛頓等郊區購置產業，則如今的價值會大不相同。

牛頓市吸引居民的是其方便的交通，有九十號收費公路和九號路貫穿，以及綠線地鐵和眾多的巴士線路；還有其良好的治安與寧靜的居住環境，這並非商業區，而以大波士頓的「臥室」之一著稱；另一引人的重要因素是其卓越的教育系統，其公立中小學在麻州一直名列前茅，因此重視子女教育的猶太裔、亞裔、俄裔們願意選此地為安家落戶。也正是這些使牛頓成為熱門居住區的因素促使了該地區的房價與稅率上漲，而高稅收也是市鎮能提供較好服務的條件。亞裔們盡管重視教育，卻也善於精打細算，尤其是對經濟實力尚不很強的新移民來說，在租購房屋時也得考慮價格因素。曾擔任牛頓中文學校校長並在牛頓一家房地產公司做經紀人的于劍表示：雖然許多華人很感興趣在牛頓一帶購買房屋，來看房者不少，但近年此地的房價昂貴也使很多人卻步，所以真正成交的並不那麼多。或許是因為房價因素，使牛頓在進入九十年代以來，亞裔人口的增长速度落後於一些其他市鎮，像昆士、摩頓等房價更為合理的郊區市鎮近年來亞裔人口後來居上，已超過牛頓與星加坡成為大波士頓亞裔主要聚居地。而在牛頓市，雖然仍有不少亞裔遷入，也有許多家庭遷出。一些在此居住多年的家庭因子女長大成人，不再需要借助牛頓的公立學校系統，而且以牛頓的高房價也可以在更安寧的遠郊區找到類似住房，還有些近年來美的留學生家庭先在牛頓租房暫住，到了該購屋時在比較房價及子女教育、環境等因素之後，在更靠西的遠郊買了房；也有的是為了子女教育搬來牛頓的華人，因孩子考入了波士頓拉丁學校而重新遷回波士頓。曾在牛頓住了幾年，兩年前因在西郊薩得百瑞(SUDBURY)購房而搬出的高潔，現在仍擔任牛頓公立小學教師，她表示：沒有在牛頓買房完全是房價因素，那時感到西郊的居住環境也不錯，而房價又較便宜，不過住過去之後，發現對我們華人來說，那里缺少的是一種社區環境，但近來似乎那里的亞裔也逐漸多了起來。

## 文協成為郊區華人聚會之家

族裔文化社區環境是牛頓為亞裔們提供的又一項引入因素，儘管一些此地的亞裔居民也抱怨，這里不要說與波士頓比，就是與昆士、摩頓等地相比，也缺少那種聯係緊密又有一定影響的亞裔社區服務性組織，因此少有政府官方資助的社區項目，針對亞裔的醫療金融、職業培訓、入籍教育等服務在這個亞裔人口不算少的市鎮也極少見；但不可否認，當地社區自發的亞裔文化建設卻為其他地區樹立了榜樣。身為牛頓居民的馬惠美為感謝社區對她事業的支持，以其生意收入回饋社區，兩年多之前，在牛頓建立了以亞洲廣播電台、國語節目、牛頓市可以說是大波士頓地區中文學校最多的一個市鎮，有三家學生人數都達二百人左右的周末中文學校，除了歷史悠久以教國語、漢語拼音和繁體字並舉的牛頓中文學校，和教授粵語的紐頓中文學校外，三年前還在文協大樓內創辦了教繁體字和注音符號的華心中文學校，三家學校各有特色，相距彼此不遠，卻每校生滿為患，雖然學生們來自各個區鎮，但牛頓的華裔家長們更為住家附近除良好的美國學校外還有特點不同的中文學校而感幸運，使子女們能有學習中華語言文化的方便場所。

在牛頓的亞裔社區聯係與服務中，大波士頓華人文化協會(GRCCA)扮演著極為重要的角色。這個成立於一九五六年之民間社團，原只是個聯誼性的俱樂部組織。該協會現任主席熊品介紹說：文協的創辦人之一是來自上海的袁郁標醫生，他當年在牛頓租房屋時遭到歧視性拒絕，因而感到作為少數族裔應聯合起來才能獲得社會承認。許多人也感到，由於當年華裔較少，美國人對我們很不了解，因此歧視與偏見倒不一定來自成見而是因為誤解。所以文協創辦的宗旨，就是要向美國社會宣傳中華文化，同時也向華裔介紹主流社會，並為同胞們提供彼此交流的場所。多年來，隨著牛頓與大波士頓地區華人人數增長，文協的會員與活動也不斷增多，但以因條件所限，只能分別租用不同場地舉辦活動，使大家感到不太方便。因而會員們考慮要有一處固定的會址，並於五年前購得了位於牛頓櫻桃街四三七號的一幢三層磚樓，購樓款項全來自會員會有的捐款。有了固定會址之後，文協更加活躍，最近幾年是這個郊區華人社團最興旺發展的時期。目前，該協會擁有會員五百余家庭，遍及紐英各地。文協出版一份月刊，並管有五所中文學校，除位於牛頓的三所外，還有全是福中文學校及星加坡中文學校(此校最近已獨立管理)，協會每年春秋各舉辦一次大型晚會，除聯誼娛樂外也為文協募集資金。文協舉辦的活動更是多種多樣，從少兒到耆英，從文體娛樂到技術商業人文講座，對郊區許多



馬惠美與幼子在牛頓的家門前



文協舉辦氣功班





請                      你  
戒教向              時戒現  
煙怎醫              候煙在  
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